



## Restraint Policy

Committee responsible: **WS SMT**

Effective from: **March 2010** to: **March 2011**

Scope: This document is for use by the Whole School Community

Policy Leader:

**Dr S Sommer**

Checked by:

**Whole School SMT**

Authorised by:

**Governors**

Signature:

Signature:

Signature:

Date:

9<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Date:

17<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Date:

### Distribution List

1. Board of Governors
2. Headmaster
3. Head of the Junior School
4. Teaching Staff
5. Administrative Staff
6. Support Staff
7. Parents

## Measures to Control or Restrain Pupils

Although there is very little likelihood of such action being necessary at The British School of Paris, staff should be aware that they may use **reasonable** force to control or restrain pupils in order to prevent them from:

- committing a crime,
- causing injury or damage to themselves, others or property,
- causing unreasonable disruption.

It is important to note that there is no **requirement** for staff to attempt restraint if they lack the confidence or skills to successfully intervene or if in doing so they are putting their own health and safety at risk.

This provision applies to any teacher or other authorised person who has control or charge of pupils, on school premises or elsewhere, e.g. on a field trip or other authorised activity.

## Type of incident

Situations in which reasonable force might be used fall into one of three categories:

- Where action is necessary in self-defence or because there is an imminent risk of danger or injury.
- Where there is a developing risk of injury or significant damage to property.
- Where a pupil behaves in a way that compromises good order, discipline or the law.

## Reasonable force

There is no legal definition of reasonable force. It will always depend on the circumstances. However there are two relevant considerations:

- The use of force can be regarded as reasonable only if the circumstances warrant it. The use of any degree of force is unlawful if circumstances do not warrant its use.
- The degree of force must be in proportion to the seriousness of the behaviour. It should always be the minimum needed to achieve the desired result.

Provided staff follow these guidelines, they can expect the full backing of the school. It is important that there is a detailed, contemporaneous written report of any occasion where force is needed.